

**Early Christian Liturgical Practices**  
**PW 3273 – Spring 2012**  
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-2:50 pm  
Room Fellowship Hall

**Instructor: Cláudio Carvalhaes**

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**Course Description:**

This course seeks to work with the complexity of the *lex orandi*, *lex credendi* and *lex agendi* (law of prayer, law of belief, and law of agency/ethics). The course will engage Christian liturgical practices and issues from the first to the fourth centuries and help students see how these social-religious-economic-political-cultural practices shaped and informed these early communities. By engaging in these practices, students will be able to see that the liturgical practices of Christian churches today are also social-religious-economic-political-cultural practices that define notions of communities and help shape the world around them.

**Intended Major Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the history of early Christian liturgies.
2. Connect liturgical practices with social, political, economic, religious and cultural aspects of the first to the third centuries as well as the twenty first century.
3. Critically evaluate the ways that liturgies are inextricably related to broader issues of culture that help define ideas of society, country and world.
4. Create and practice a variety of rituals related to the themes developed in this class.
5. Describe the intricate connections between faith, bodily knowledge, and social structures.
6. Articulate a possible renewal of the church from liturgical points of view.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Conscientious attendance and participation in discussion/ritual practices are fundamental. Students must come to class prepared with all the readings done and a willingness to participate. Please inform the instructor ahead of time if you have to miss class. Missing more than 2 classes puts you in danger of failing the course. (20%)
2. Every student will lead two discussions and create a ritual in class in response to one assigned reading during the semester. (20%)
3. Incorporating in-class learning, the class will prepare two worship services and present them in chapel April 19 (Thursday) and 25 (Wednesday). Preparation will be done in class with the instructor. (20%)
4. Each student will visit a church different from his/her own and write a 3 page paper using Times New Roman font 12, making connections between the worship

experienced there and larger issues of culture such as social class, economics, gender participation, political aspects, etc. (20%)

4. Each student will write a 6-8 page final paper (double spaced) to be presented during the last day of class, wrapping up the semester and dealing with one theme developed in class, showing how this theme offers challenges, difficulties, and blessings to the church and the world today. The student needs to present a final class/presentation in order to pass this class. (20%)

### **Academic honesty:**

All work you submit in this class is expected to be yours. Any quotation of the words of others must be clearly indicated, and all direct indebtedness must be acknowledged by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of Seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

### **Inclusive Language:**

In your writing and in your worship services, avoid language for people that leaves out part of the population or perpetuate stereotypes. Avoid gender specific pronouns when gender is unknown. Gender specific pronouns should be avoided when referring to God unless you are quoting from a theological text or a translation of the Bible that uses them.

**\* Please turn off cell phones before class begins.**

**\* It is forbidden to use the internet during class.**

### **Required Books**

- Bradshaw, Paul F. *Daily Prayer in the Early Church: A Study of the Origin and Early Development of the Divine Office*, (Eugene, OR: Wipf&Stock Publishers, 2008)
- Milavec, Aaron. *The Didache: Text, Translation, Analysis, and Commentary*, (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007).
- Spinks, Bryan D. *Early and Medieval Rituals and Theologies of Baptism: From the New Testament to the Council of Trent* (Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2006).
- Taussig, Hal. *In the Beginning Was the Meal: Social Experimentation and Early Christian Identity*, (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2009).

\* The bookstore will have all the required books available if you want to buy them. All of the books/videos required and/or recommended are on reserve at the library.

**Course Outline** (please note that this syllabus is subject to change)

### **February 2 - Introduction**

Reading: Smith, David I. and Smith, James K. A. (editors) *Introduction: Practices, Faith and Pedagogy, Teaching and Christian Practices. Reshaping Faith and Learning*. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011), pp. 1-23.

### **February 7 - Origins of Christian Worship**

Reading: Bradshaw, Paul F. *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship: Sources and Methods for the Study of Early Liturgy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 1-46, 73-117.

### **February 9 - Didache**

Reading: Milavec, Aaron. *The Didache: Text, Translation, Analysis, and Commentary*, (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007). Read the Introduction, ix-xviii, and pp. 3-37 (odd pages). Read as much as you can from “A Brief Commentary,” pp. 39-114.

### **February 14 – Christian Initiation, Ministry and Ordination I**

Reading: Bradshaw, Paul F. *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship: Sources and Methods for the Study of Early Liturgy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 144-210.

### **February 16 - Christian Initiation, Ministry and Ordination II**

Reading: Johnson, Maxwell E. *The Rites of Christian Initiation: Their Evolution and Interpretation* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007), pp. 1-40

### **February 21 – Prayer I**

Reading: Bradshaw, Paul F. *Daily Prayer in the Early Church: A Study of the Origin and Early Development of the Divine Office*, (Eugene, OR: Wipf&Stock Publishers, 2008), pp. 1-72.

### **February 23 – Prayer II**

Reading: Bradshaw, Paul F. *Daily Prayer in the Early Church: A Study of the Origin and Early Development of the Divine Office*, (Eugene, OR: Wipf&Stock Publishers, 2008), pp. 72-180.

### **February 28 – Baptism I**

Reading: Spinks, Bryan D. *Early and Medieval Rituals and Theologies of Baptism: From the New Testament to the Council of Trent* (Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2006), pp. 3-70.

### **March 1 – Baptism II**

Reading: Spinks, Bryan D. *Early and Medieval Rituals and Theologies of Baptism: From the New Testament to the Council of Trent* (Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2006), pp. 71-158.

### **March 6 – Eucharist I**

Reading: Taussig, Hal. *In the Beginning Was the Meal: Social Experimentation and Early Christian Identity*, (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2009), pp. 1-114.

### **March 8 – Eucharist II**

Reading: Taussig, Hal. *In the Beginning Was the Meal: Social Experimentation and Early Christian Identity*, (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2009), pp. 115-198.

### **March 13 - Arts and Music**

Reading: Jensen, Robin Margaret. *Understanding Early Christian Art*, (Abingdon, UK: Routledge; 2000), pp. 1-63, 130-155.  
Calvin R. Stapert, William B. *A New Song for an Old World: Musical Thought in the Early Church* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006), pp. 1-41

### **March 15 - Healing**

Reading: Daunton-Fear, Andrew. *Healing in the Early Church: The Church's Ministry of Healing and Exorcism from the First to the Fifth Century* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers 2009), pp. 1-16, 40-110.

### **March 20-22 – Research and Study Week**

### **March 27 – Kissing**

Reading: Penn, Michael Philip. *Kissing Christians: Ritual and Community in the Late Ancient Church* (Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2005), pp. 1-90

### **March 29 - Martyrdom, Suffering and Memory**

Reading: Castelli, Elizabeth. *Martyrdom and Memory: Early Christian Culture Making* (New York: Columbia University Press 2007), pp. 69-103.

### **April 3 - Fasting, Passion and Sexuality**

Reading: Shaw, Teresa M. *Burden of the Flesh*, (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1998), pp. 79-128.

### **April 10 - Women and Storytelling**

Reading: Cohick, Lynn H. *Women in the World of the Earliest Christians: Illuminating Ancient Ways of Life*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic; 2009), pp. 195-224.  
Hearon, Holly E. *The Mary Magdalene Tradition: Witness and Counter-Witness in Early Christian Communities* (Bel Air: Michael Glazier Books, 2004), pp. 77-100.

### **April 12 – Social Classes and Slavery**

Reading: Glancy, Jennifer A. *Slavery in Early Christianity*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006), pp. 3-38.  
Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity Reception* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company 2003), pp. 55-62

### **April 17 - Economics**

Reading: Longenecker, Bruce W. Liebengood, and Kelly D. Engaging (Editors) *Economics: New Testament Scenarios and Early Christian Reception* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company 2009), pp. 37-80, 260-280.

### **April 19 - Fast, Feasts, Seasons and Artifacts**

Reading: Bradshaw, Paul F. and Maxwell Johnson. *The Origins of Feasts, Fasts, and Seasons* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2011). To be determined.  
Hurtado, Larry W. *The Earliest Christian Artifacts: Manuscripts and Christian Origins* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Pub Co, 2006), pp. 1-42.

### **April 24 – Transformation and Bodily Knowledge**

Reading: Seim, Turid Karlsen. *Metamorphoses: Resurrection, Body and Transformative Practices in Early Christianity* (Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2009). To be announced.  
Glancy, Jennifer. *Corporal Knowledge: Early Christian Bodies* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 3-47.

### **April 26 - Funeral**

Reading: Corley, Kathleen E. *Maranatha: Women's Funerary Rituals and Christian Origins*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010), pp. 1-64.

Recommended: Long, Thomas. *Accompany Them with Singing--The Christian Funeral*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press 2009), pp. 3-106.

### **May 1 - Hegeria**

Reading: *Egeria: Diary of a Pilgrimage* (Ancient Christian Writers 38), Introduction by George E. Gingras, (Maryland: Newman Press, 1970), pp. 49-128 and read as much as you can from the introduction, pp. 1-48.

\* Note that this class will meet at Nelson Hall Rm #119

### **May 3 – Fourth Century**

Reading: “The Effects of the Coming of Christendom in the Fourth Century.” Bradshaw, Paul F. *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship: Sources and Methods for the Study of Early Liturgy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 211-230

Recommended: Ruth, Lester. *Walking Where Jesus Walked: Worship in Fourth-Century Jerusalem* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010).

### **May 8 – Student Presentation**

### **May 10 – Student Presentation**